(c) whether the short levy of tax on these uncovered segments amounts to more than rupees 1000 crore; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to identify the prospective assesses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The C&AG in their Report No. 12A of 2002 (for the year ended 31.3.2001) laid down in Parliament on 15th March, 2002 have included the results of the Review on Private Banking Companies and Non-Banking Financial Companies and Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes. As per this report, in the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and West Bengal, 12,210 (or 66%) of the 18435 NBFCs identified by Audit were not in the tax net. As per the report of C&AG irregularities on account of failure to follow the statutory provisions resulted in total short levy of tax of Rs. 104177.18 lakh in 1587 cases.

(d) The Central Information Branch (C1B) of the Income Tax Department collects information regarding prospective assesses and passes on the same to the Commissioners of Income tax concerned for further necessary action. The territorial Assessing Officers also collect information in their territorial jurisdiction, from time to time.

Excise duty on palm oil and sugar

3705. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a long time demand to increase excise duty on palm oil and sugar to protect the interest of farmers; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.